

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05516 010721Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 /031 W

-----020018Z 125501 /66

R 311427Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3456

USDA FAS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 710

UNCLAS CAIRO 5516

FAS FOR FITZSIMMONDS AND SINDELAR.

BERN, THE HAGUE, LONDON AND EC BRUSSELS FOR AGATTACHES.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, EG, US.

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PURCHASE OF SEED POTATOES FROM MAINE.

REFS: (A) CAIRO 1809, (B) LONDON 2422, (C) FASTO 23.

1. AGATTACHE CAIRO WAS CONTACTED MARCH 31 BY MR. BECHIR ODABACHI, BONDY AND HERZIG, AG., LANGELTHAL, SWITZERLAND AND ING. NASR EL-DIN EL-HUSSEINI, CHAIRMAN, UNION OF POTATO EXPORTERS AND GROWERS, CAIRO. ODABACHI REPRESENTS COMPANY WHICH ARRANGED TRIAL SHIPMENT OF SEED POTATOES FROM MAINE TO EGYPT AND EL-HUSSEINI REPRESENTS EGYPTIAN GROWERS USING MAINE SEED POTATOES.

2. EL-HUSSEINI REPORTED THAT SOME EGYPTIAN PLANT PATHOLOGISTS SUSPECT POTATO RING ROT IN FIELDS PLANTED WITH MAINE SEED POTATOES. HE REQUESTS THAT EMINENT U.S. PLANT PATHOLOGIST FAMILIAR WITH RING ROT VISIT EGYPT DURING SECOND HALF OF MAY FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS TO INSPECT FIELDS PLANTED WITH MAINE
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SEED POTATOES AND, HOPEFULLY, GIVE PROFESSIONAL ASSURANCE TO EGYPTIAN PRODUCERS THAT DISEASE IS NOT EVIDENT. EL-HUSSEINI ASKS THAT U.S. SCIENTIST BRING MAP SHOWING ZONES OF THE WORLD AFFECTED BY POTATO RING ROT.

3. ACCORDING TO EL-HUSSEINI, DR. TAWFIK ABDUL HAKK, DIRECTOR, EGYPTIAN PLANT PATHOLOGY INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,

WILL BE IN UNITED STATES DURING JUNE. EL-HUSSEINI URGES U.S. AUTHORITIES TO ARRANGE PROGRAM LASTING 2-3 DAYS TO FAMILIARIZE DR. HAKK WITH POTATO RING ROT, AMERICAN RESEARCH ON SUBJECT, AND USDA AND STATE PROCEDURES TO INSURE THAT RING ROT IS NOT CONTAINED IN SEED POTATOES FOR EXPORT.

4. MISSION CAIRO URGED WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO SEND APPROPRIATE SCIENTIST TO EGYPT IN MAY AND ARRANGE APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE IN U.S. FOR DR. HAKK IN JUNE. SUBSTANTIAL TRADE INTEREST IS INVOLVED SINCE EGYPT MAY BE MARKET FOR 5-10,000 TONS OF U.S. SEED POTATOES ANNUALLY IF FIRST SHIPMENT PROVES SATISFACTORY. WHILE WE MAY TO SOME EXTENT BE CAUGHT BETWEEN RIVAL GROUPS WITHIN EGYPTIAN POTATO INDUSTRY, SINCE POTATO GROWERS FEDERATION HAS CLOSE TIES WITH DUTCH SEED POTATO INDUSTRY AND UNHAPPY WITH IMPORTATION OF MAINE SEED POTATOES BY EL-HUSSEINI'S GROUP, FACT REMAINS THAT PROBLEM IS REAL AND MAY JEOPARDIZE FUTURE U.S. SALES. MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, TRADE, POTATOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977034/aaaaadbu.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 1809, 77 LONDON 2422
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3049618
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN PURCHASE OF SEED POTATOES FROM MAINE.
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EG, US, EEC
To: STATE USDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31b7d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009